

ICONS ONE OF FOUR

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PG 1

CHAMBER™

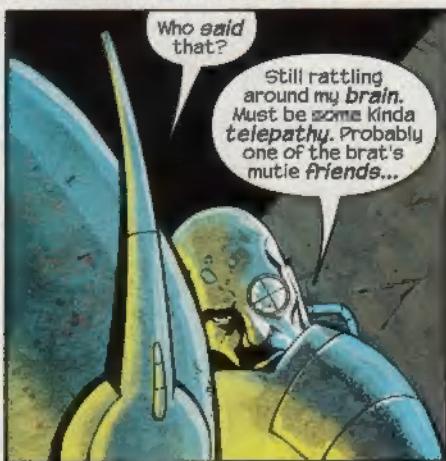
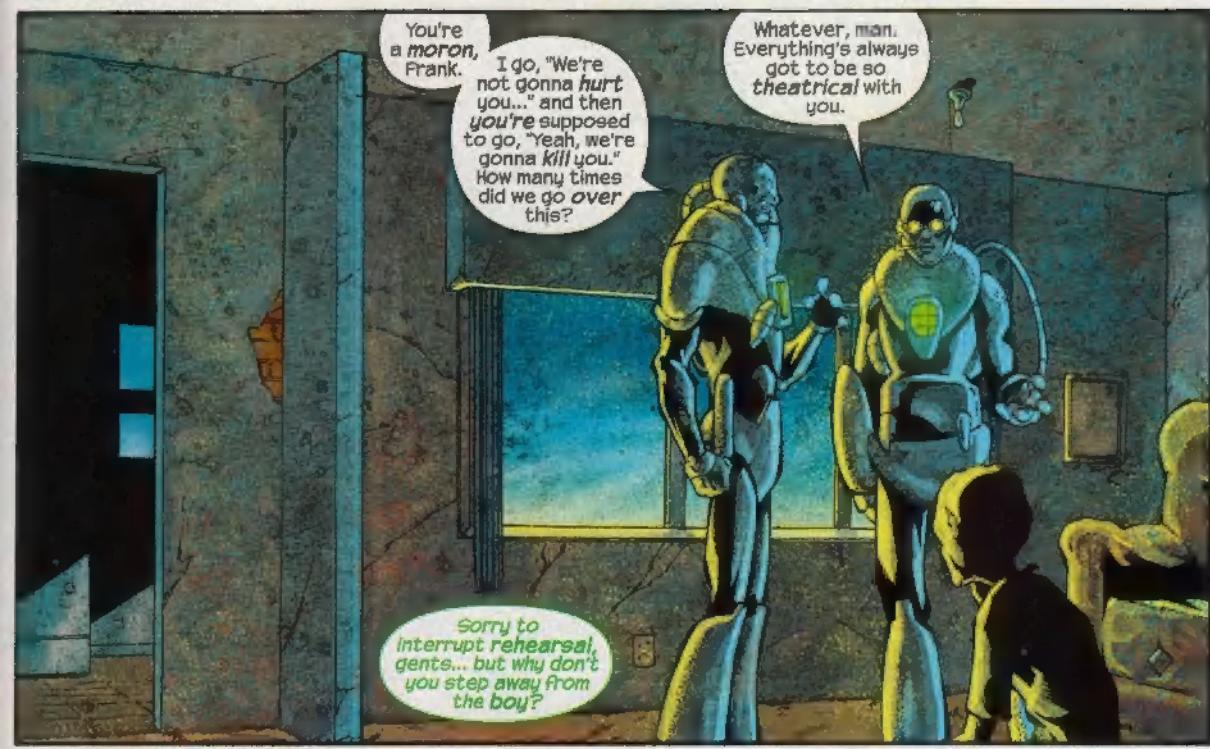
VAUGHAN
FERGUSON
RAPMUND
VILLARRUBIA



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Bit
late for that,
innit?

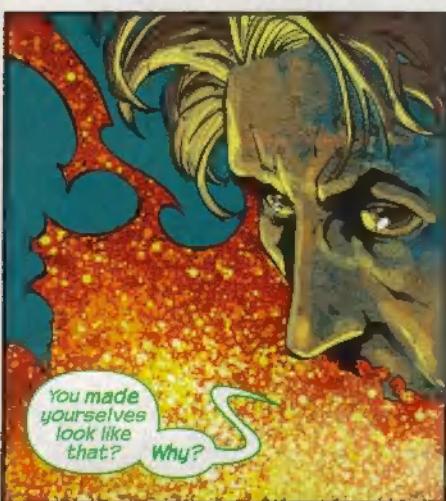
WHEN HIS MUTANT ABILITY ERUPTED IN A FATEFUL EXPLOSION OF BIOKINETIC ENERGY, LONDON NATIVE JONATHAN STARSMORE TORE A MASSIVE HOLE IN HIS FACE AND CHEST. NOW ONE OF THE YOUNGEST MEMBERS OF THE UNCANNY X-MEN, JONO USES THE UNIQUE POWERS HE WAS BORN WITH TO PROTECT A WORLD THAT FEARS AND HATES HIM. HIS TEAMMATES CALL HIM... CHAMBER!

THE HOLLOW MAN

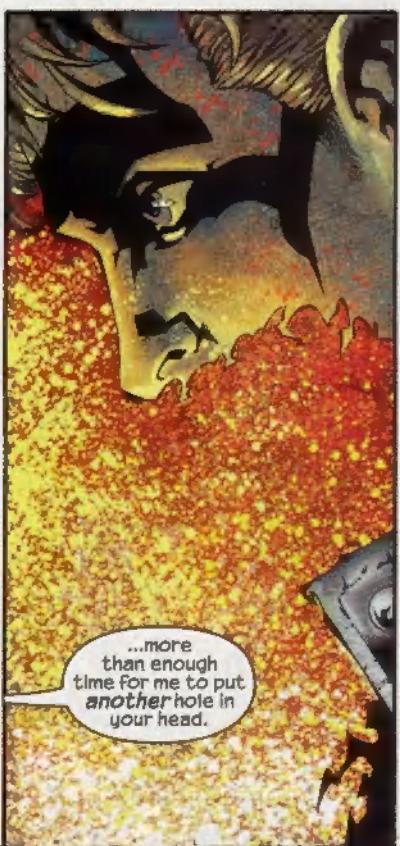
CHAPTER ONE

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CHAMBER!



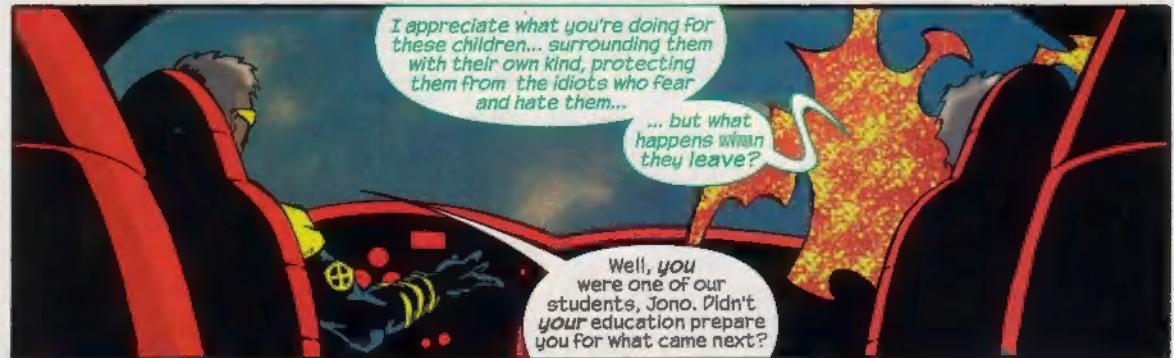
LATER, EN ROUTE TO THE
XAVIER'S SCHOOL...





It's not
the X-Men,
Scott...

...it's your
school.



I appreciate what you're doing for
these children... surrounding them
with their own kind, protecting
them from the idiots who fear
and hate them...

...but what
happens when
they leave?

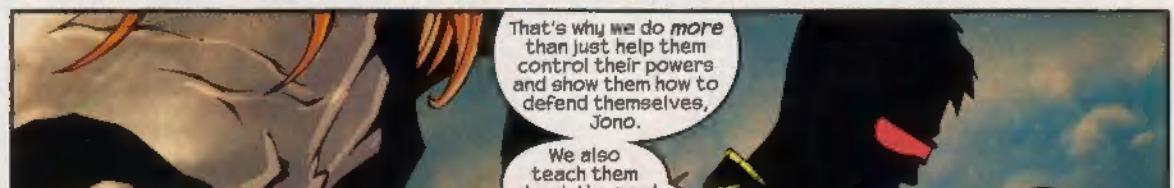
Well, you
were one of our
students, Jono. Didn't
your education prepare
you for what came next?



'Course it did...
taught me how
to be a better
soldier.

But I can't
imagine every kid who
graduates will want to
dress up in black leather
and fight evildoers like we
do. Most of them just want
to be bankers and...
and ballerinas.

Or
whatever.



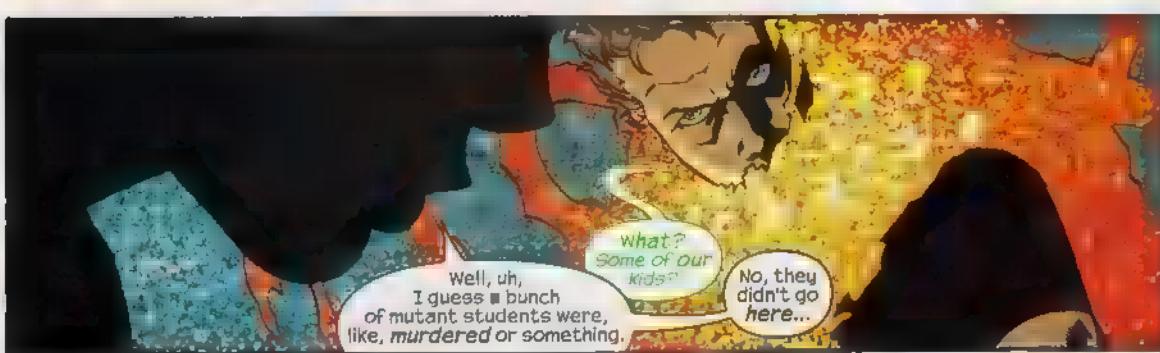
That's why we do more
than just help them
control their powers
and show them how to
defend themselves,
Jono.

We also
teach them
about the real
world.

But don't
you ever think
they should be
out there...



... teaching
the real world
about us?



...six openly homo superior freshmen, killed by an explosion. ■ made this re-creation from available Landsat photos.

None of the usual suspects have claimed responsibility for the blast, and authorities don't have any leads.

Hold ■ did ■ these students didn't hide the fact they ■ mutants?

Not only that, they were given full scholarships because of their mutations.

I thought most normal schools didn't even accept our kind.

When ■ we ■ the leap from integration to affirmative action?

ESU has always been one of the most progressive universities in our country, Jon. They started this program in an effort to make their campus ■ "genetically diverse."

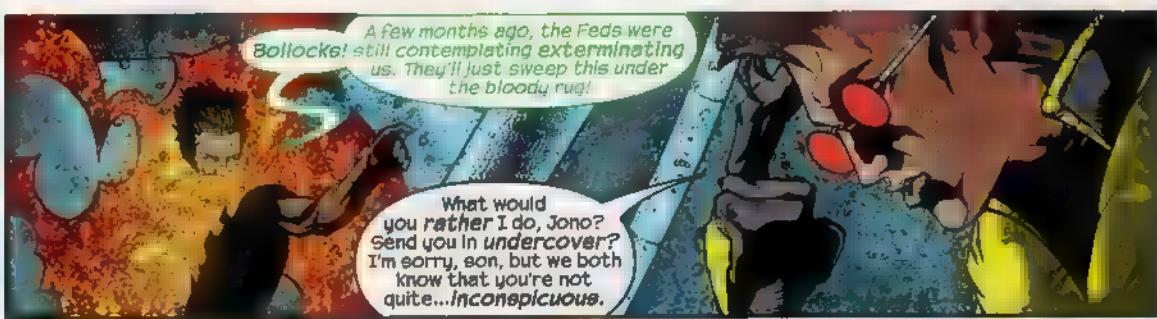
So far, nineteen young mutants have been brave enough to volunteer. The six who died were all part of ■ co-species organization called Students for Tolerance.

Their office was bombed, only one survivor. Reportedly, one of the mutant students used his body ■ ■ shield to save his human girlfriend...

...the group's founder, Gigi Martin.

2





EMPIRE STATE CONVENTION
ONE WEEK LATER...













Well, if it isn't the wannabe — Gigi.

What're you gonna do, human... sign another petition for peace?

Just leave him alone. ■ doesn't want to be part ■ your stupid club.

Yeah, maybe he wants to join Cowards for Tolerance... so ■ can get blown up like your friends did.



You're... you're Gigi? Apologies if this is inappropriate, but I'm, uh, majoring in Journalism, and I was wondering if I could ask you a few questions about...

I'm sorry. I can't talk about that here...

You never know who might be listening.



Right. 'Course.
Well, my name's
Jono. If you ever
want to—

Amazing, you...
you communicate
the exact same way
my boyfriend did. It's...
nice to have a voice
inside my head
again.

Why don't
you come see me
TOMORROW, Jono? My
group has a new office
on the third floor
of the student
center.

Until then,
don't let anyone
frighten you. ESU
is far from perfect...
but we're all about
progress.

Cheers,
Gigi. Uh...
thanks!

Oh, hey,
Amber. See
you in Life
Drawing!

Yeah...
Sure
thing.

Don't get
your hopes up,
Romeo. Human
girls don't go
for mutants
who look like...
us.

And even
when they date
the cute ones,
it's only to make
their **fathers'**
angry.

You don't
like her, do
you?

Gigi? She's fine,
I guess. Little
naive.

I try to
stay out of the
political stuff, you
know? My only real
affiliation is with the
chess club. I'm just
here for the free
education.

Come on,
I'll take you
to your room.
Where'd they
hide you?

Uh...
Brittany
Hall?

Cool, that's
actually a really
friendly building.
You'll love it...



Or maybe you think you deserve preference because you were born with **physical limitations**.

Well, cry me an ocean. I've been playing *sit-and-spin* my entire life, but no college offered me a full ride.

And I'm sorry about that, Walter... but you're comparing apples to snowshoes.

When the government was widening doors on buses for humans with disabilities, it was building Sentinels to murder people like me!

That's ancient history! You guys are all **celebrities** now!

What, you think that just because a handful of mutants are on TV that the struggle is over?

"The struggle."

God, I can not have this conversation again. My last roomie whined like that right up until the day he...

I'm going to the library for the night.

Pick up some air freshener before I get back. You smell like a sulfur mine.

SAM



TO BE
CONTINUED...